

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES
SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION**



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005
KIVA CONFERENCE ROOM - CITY HALL
3939 N. DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251**

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Gilliland
Vice-Chairman Brian Davis
Commissioner Michael Bruz
Commissioner J. David Hill
Commissioner Kelly McCall
Commissioner Matthew Taunton

ABSENT: Commissioner William Howard

STAFF PRESENT: Harriett Fortner, Transportation Secretary
Debra Astin, Transit Manager
Teresa Huish, Principal Transportation Planner
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning and Transit Director
Mary O'Connor, Transportation General Manager
Paul Porell, Traffic Engineering Director

PUBLIC: Moshe Bar
Robert Jackson

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The study session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Gilliland at 5:20 p.m.

2. **QUESTIONS REGARDING TONIGHT'S REGULAR MEETING AGENDA /
COMMENTS**

- 132nd Street/Shea Improvements

Ms. O'Connor explained that the Shea expressway policy requires the Commission's approval, but not the approval of City Council. Staff is recommending approval of the item.

The request to modify the streets master plan is a continuation of an item from October. The Commission would be possibly making a recommendation to City Council on that item. The Commission would also be providing input to the Planning Commission regarding the associated zoning case.

3. **PAINT SCHEME OF VALLEY METRO BUSES**

Ms. O'Connor noted that the agenda item regarding a new color scheme for Valley Metro vehicles is delayed due to information received today from Valley Metro.

Mr. Meinhart introduced Teresa Huish, recently hired as Principal Transportation Planner. Ms. O'Connor remarked that they are very lucky to have Ms. Huish, who has an extensive background with the City's Planning Department. She will supervise the Transportation Planning staff and direct the Transportation Master Plan effort.

Chairman Gilliland asked if there are any updates on traffic calming. Ms. O'Connor undertook to cover that at the regular meeting, adding that the Department has been working on an update of the current draft. A public involvement professional focus group is scheduled for December.

Vice-Chairman Davis asked what kind of action the Commission might be expected to take on agenda item #6. Ms. O'Connor clarified that "possible action" was noted on the agenda in case the Commissioners wanted to make a motion, and added that there is no requirement to take action on this item.

Commissioner McCall noted that general manager comments were not on tonight's agenda. Ms. O'Connor said she will be providing transportation project updates via discussion of various items on the agenda and given the number of items on tonight's agenda did not want to take up any more of the Commission's time.

REQUEST TO MODIFY STREETS MASTER PLAN

Commissioner Taunton asked Ms. O'Connor if she could expand on agenda item #5 and provide other examples where the City has essentially closed a public street. He wanted to understand the process of how such a decision was made and implemented. Mr. Meinhart clarified that this item does not concern an existing street but rather an alignment in the streets master plan. He added that there have been a couple of instances where City Council, with input from the Transportation Commission, has chosen to make changes to the streets master plan.

Mr. Meinhart discussed some cases where this had occurred, including 96th Street south of Via Linda. In those cases, the Transportation Commission reviewed the proposals and made recommendations to City Council. Mr. Meinhart noted that in the case currently before the Commission, an alternative roadway alignment, rather than simply a closure, is being proposed. Members of the public will be addressing the meeting on this topic.

Mr. Meinhart explained that the developer did not come to the City proposing this change to the streets master plan. The Alameda Road neighbors initiated the request. They are looking to get better balance on how traffic moves east-west in the area.

Ms. O'Connor said that staff is recommending approval of this item, with conditions. Those conditions include not changing the streets master plan until the actual alternative route is secured and constructed, because some of that property is State land. Public trail access and emergency access must be maintained.

In answer to questions from Commissioners McCall and Hill, Mr. Porell said that there would be no gate across the multi-use trail. Mr. Meinhart noted that there are four lots abutting a proposed multi-use trail along the Ranch Gate Road alignment. The developer dedicated right of way for a half street and a trail.

Ms. O'Connor cautioned that there is somewhat of an extensive process to secure the alternative route. Various issues need to be addressed.

Commissioner McCall had a question about the map included in the letter from the Kleiners. Mr. Meinhart replied that in 1991 there was a proposal for Jomax to connect to 128th Street. There is now a Preserve area there, so the alignment was eliminated from the streets master plan when it was adopted by Council in 2003. He explained that the streets master plan only includes roadways that are minor collector level and above. Streets that are strictly residential or local collectors are not shown on the master plan.

Commissioner Taunton asked if Alameda was defined as a minor collector prior to the residential construction. Mr. Meinhart confirmed that it was. Commissioner Taunton remarked that at the last meeting someone had said that Alameda is narrower than most minor collectors. Mr. Meinhart explained this was done intentionally to be more in keeping with ESLO.

A discussion ensued about traffic patterns and the advantages to the City. Commissioner Bruz asked about the fire station. Mr. Meinhart said that it is along Alma School to the north of Jomax.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the study session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc.

***NOTE: Video and/or audio recordings of Scottsdale Transportation Commission meetings are available from the Scottsdale Transportation Department for up to six months following the meeting date.**